

Message Text

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SUBJECT: DRC VISIT TO US FORCES IN FRG

REF: A. USNATO 5307, SEP 26, 1974(NOTAL
B. USNATO 0130
C. STATE 003573
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1. DEFENSE REVIEW COMMITTEE 14-16 APRIL VISIT TO US FORCES IN FRG
WAS HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL. DRC MEMBERS WERE IMPRESSED BY WHAT
THEY SAW, AND THEIR COMMENTS HAVE BEEN UNIFORMLY AND GENUINELY
LAUDATORY. THE ENTIRE PROGRAM WAS RIGHT ON TARGET AND FULFILLED
ALL OBJECTIVES MISSION HAD SOUGHT IN PROPOSING VISIT. PERSONAL
PARTICIPATION BY GENERALS EADE, VOGT, ALMQUIST AND POE WERE ESPEC-
IALLY APPRECIATED AND HIGHLY EFFECTIVE FROM THE VIEW POINT OF ADVANC-
ING US INTERESTS IN NATO.

2. MISSION BELIEVES THAT THE PRINCIPAL BENEFIT FROM THE VISIT WAS
IN PROVIDING DEV MEMBERS WITH A CLEARER AND MORE COMPREHENSIVE
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PICTURE OF THE WARSAW PACT THREAT AND NATO CONVENTIONAL WAR CAPA-
BILITIES. WE FEEL THAT THE OVERALL IMPRESSION CREATED WAS THAT
THE US EUROPEAN COMMAND KNOWS THE STRENGTH AND WEAKNESSES OF THE
WARSAW PACT, HAS A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT NATO IMPROVEMENTS

ARE REQUIRED, AND THE FIRM DETERMINATION AND STRENGTH TO CARRY OUT ITS MISSIONS IN PEACE AND WAR. BRIEFINGS AT HQ USEUCOM AND HQ USAFE, WHICH CAREFULLY ANALYSED PACT CAPABILITIES--WEAKNESS AS WELL AS STRENGTHS--ARE SURE TO IMPROVE DRC WORK IN DEFENSE PLANNING.

3. DRC MEMBERS ALSO NOW HAVE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF US PROGRAMS AND REQUIREMENTS. THEY GAINED AN APPRECIATION OF THE TREMENDOUS POTENTIAL REPRESENTED BY US FORCES AND THE NEED FOR HOST NATION SUPPORT IN ORDER TO REALIZE MAXIMUM BENEFIT FROM THIS POTENTIAL. AFTER THE EUCOM BRIEFING ON NATIONAL SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS, THE FRG DRC REP (BGEN SCHUNEMANN), WHO HAS OPPOSED FRG ACCEPTANCE OF ADDITIONAL SUPPORT TASKS, APPROACHED THE US REP (BGEN BOWMAN) TO SAY THAT HE WAS IMPRESSED BY THE LARGE NUMBER OF SUPPORT PERSONNEL THAT THE US WOULD HAVE TO SEND TO EUROPE IN THE EARLY PHASES OF A CONFLICT AND FELT THAT THE FRG SHOULD WORK OUT WAYS TO SHOULDER SOME OF THE LOAD.

4. THE DAY'S PROGRAM WITH USAREUR AT BRAFENWOEHR PROVIDED AN EXTREMELY USEFUL OPPORTUNITY TO VIEW USAREUR UNITS DURING ON-GOING FIELD TRAINING, AND TO MIX WITH ARMY PERSONNEL TO DISCUSS CAPABILITIES AND EQUIPMENT. SOLDIERS WERE ALERT AND ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THEIR MISSIONS. THE ONLY DISAPPOINTING NOTE WAS PERFORMANCE TO THE TOW SYSTEM, WHICH ACHIEVED ONE HIT, ONE VERY NEAR MISS, AND TWO APPARENTLY ERRATIC ROUNDS. (THE COMMITTEE WITNESSED A SIMILAR ERRATIC TOW ROUND DURING THEIR AUTUMN VISIT TO FRG FORCES AT MUNSTER LAGER.) MOST MEMBERS SEEMED TO ACCEPT THE TOW FAILURE AS MURPHY'S LAW IN OPERATION, BUT THERE WAS DISCUSSION OF THE NEED TO RECOMMEND ADDITIONAL ANTI-TANK AMMUNITION FOR TRAINING IN ALL NATO FORCES, SINCE ONE PRACTICE MISSILE PER YEAR SEEMS HARDLY ENOUGH TO ACHIEVE THE FULL POTENTIAL OF SUCH A SYSTEM.

5. AT USAFE, THE DRC VIEWED AN F-4 AND ITS PRECISION MUNITIONS, AN AIRDRAFT SHELTER, AND THE AWACS, AS WELL AS RECEIVING IMPORTANT BRIEFINGS ON THE AIR BALANCE AND ON NATO'S NEW ALLIED AIR FORCES CENTRAL EUROPE HEADQUARTERS. ALLIED REPS MADE MANY COMMENTS TO THE EFFECT THAT THEY WOULD BE FAR BETTER ABLE TO PRESS FOR KEY NATO REQUIREMENTS AS A RESULT OF THIS VISIT.
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6. ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS WERE SUPERB THROUGHOUT THE TRIP AND REFLECT THE HARD WORK AND ATTENTION TO DETAIL BY THE VARIOUS PROJECT OFFICERS INVOLVED. HQ EUCOM, HQ USAFE, AND THE SEVENTH ARMY TRAINING CENTER WERE GRACIOUS HOSTS. MANY THANKS TO ALL CONCERNED FOR SUPERIOR SUPPORT.
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